

NEWFANGLES 54 is the Dec 1971 and final issue of comicdom's longest-running newsletter under the same editorship. NF has been edited by Don&Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor OH 44060 since March 1967 -- always on schedule or ahead of schedule. Circulation on this issue is 580 and this is Page 367 of The Compleat Newfangles. Heading is by Jon Kawamoto. If we have art by you that we have not used, it will be returned at your request, otherwise will be held for possible use in Comic Art or one of our other publications. We are not quitting fandom, just dropping Newfangles. Our next big production is to be revealed below; more fannish items will follow. Fare well.

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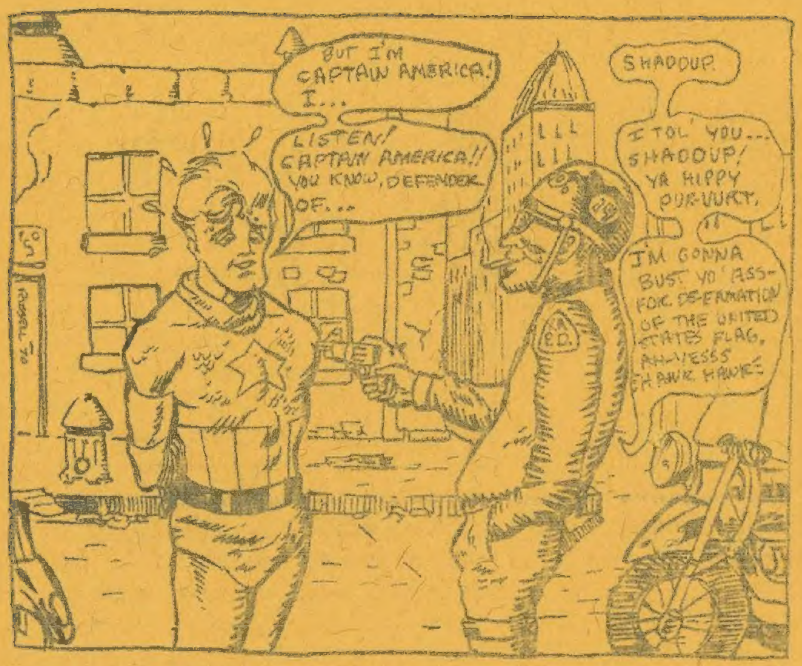
Don and Margaret Thompson are expecting their second child on or about July 24, 1972. Our plans for adoption have been postponed but not canceled. Daughter Valerie, overjoyed, is hoping for a brother, but we will gladly settle for whatever we get.

Green Lantern/Green Arrow, to the surprise of nobody (except those who believed Carmine Infantino), is dead. There will be no issues beyond the "surprise" reprint issue 88. The feature may continue in another book, possibly in Flash.

Conan, to the surprise of nobody (except those who believed Carmine Infantino), is going back to monthly publication with #16, the first drawn by Gil Kane. And Kull returns in January in Monsters on the Prowl. Robert E Howard lives.

Carmine Infantino has for months been predicting that Marvel will die in March, 1972.

Marvel is going to be bringing out a lot of new books in 1972; some will be characters new to comics; some will be new characters; some will be characters new to Marvel and some will be existing Marvel characters getting their own books (Doc Strange, for one)./ Mike Friedrich quit his job at DC in a rather heated exchange with Julius Schwartz and is now working at Marvel. Other DC staffers may be moving to Marvel soon. / Len Wein is now writing Justice League and the 100th issue is to feature the JLA, the JSA and the Seven Soldiers of Victory. / DC's 100-page books are doing so well plans are to put them out at the rate of 2 a month. / T Casey Brennan will write the Vampirella series for Warren now that Archie Goodwin has left; Casey's first issue will be #17. Casey also will do a sequel to "A Stranger in Hell" (Eerie 38). / Barry Smith is doing a 2-pager for Rolling Stone -- "Sherlock Holmes Meets Conan." / Gary Brown's Comic Comments is now being published by Jim Steranko's Supergraphics; Gary continues as editor. There will be a name-change and the newly-titled zine will be published 6 or 8 times a year. Existing subs will be completed. / "Tales from the Crypt," a movie based on stories from EC horror comics, is now being filmed in England by Amicus Productions Ltd. / Somehow people have got the idea that Marvel fired Neal Adams because he lost his briefcase; untrue. Friction developed because Adams is frequently late on deadlines and because he wouldn't let Marvel relieve him on Avengers until after the deadline. Besides, Adams was not fired, he quit. / Steve Englehart takes over Beast in the second issue; Mike Friedrich will write Sub-Mariner, Iron Man, maybe Dracula and the new, original-story Outlaw Kid. / Thomas & Kane will not do Gullivar, Warrior of Mars beyond the second issue; it will be taken over by Gerry Conway and Ross Andru. / Thomas and Gene Colan are working on Solomon Kane by REHoward.




What can you say about a four-and-three-quarter-year-old fanzine that died? NF #1 appeared in March 1967 as a bi-monthly, single-sheet news letter priced at 3 issues for 25¢. Our schedule was officially made monthly with #10 (NF had actually been appearing monthly for some time before that). Our deadline has always been the last day of the month given in our indicia and we have always met that deadline -- sometimes just barely, but always. Fifty-four on-schedule issues has to be a record in comics fandom, at least for a newszine and surely for consecutive issues under the same editorship. We tried to give as much news as possible covering as many fields of comic art as possible and to maintain a critical view, not just deal with publicity handouts. We made some enemies, but can still live with ourselves, something we couldn't have done if we had indulged in the rectal osculation practiced by some other newszines. Whether we set any lasting precedents remains to be seen. One precedent we hope we set is that of not pulling the rug out from under subscribers by suddenly canceling publication (or by saying that another issue will be out any year now) and pocketing subscription money. We announced a year ago that this would be our last issue and refunded all sub money beyond this date. Had circumstances forced us to quit earlier, we would have refunded money then, too. We are outraged at how rare this is. We feel an obligation to our subscribers -- which is one reason we don't print public relations bull about how great the upcoming Pink Pantywaist is going to be because Joe Hackwriter and Sam Artstealer have done it again. So, OK. There are some newszines available as replacements. Send for a sample copy of each. Richard Kyle (PO Box 16168, Long Beach CA 90806) will send one free sample issue of Graphic Story World to any NF subber who asks for it. Gary Brown (5430 W. 6th Court, Hialeah, Fla 33012) will send you a sample for 20¢. You can get Etcetera for 38¢ sent to Paul Levitz (393 E. 58 St, Brooklyn NY 11203). For the best fanzine reviews around, send 10¢ to George (1632 Hollenbeck Rd. #7, Sunnyvale CA 94087). Watch these for news of our upcoming activities -- we are dropping NF, not dropping out of comic fandom. For one thing, we will continue the fan awards.

The Comic Fan Awards, sometimes known as the Goethe Awards (we are willing to drop that name as long as it doesn't revert to being called the *yikh* Alley Awards; sounds like something you get for creative muggings) are due now. Please send in your votes and please read the instructions first. You waste your vote by casting ballots for stories not eligible. The final ballots will be available in all the fanzines mentioned above and in many other places besides. Results will be announced first at the NY Comicon July 4 weekend and in all sorts of newszines shortly after.

ORCHID:"Dear Vermin, You are like the late 19th & early 20th century art critics who were only able to view the new art forms then emerging in terms of the romanticism & kow-towing realism of the popular "straight" painters of the day. Sycophants like yourselves shouldn't even attempt criticism. Especially of new work you only can relate to in terms of the old. Fanzines disgust me. You might as well be writing about bottlecaps as comics. You're all anal-retentives. We will bury you! - Bill Griffith." (Griffith does Mr Toad, an underground character we rated a bummer.)

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



Don Valerie Maggie

SCIENCE CAN EXPAND YOUR UNDERSTANDING Scientific American for March 1971 gave the results of Mrs. Sheila K. Johnson's field test of the hypothesis "The patterns in which people send and receive Christmas cards can ...be explained in terms of certain social characteristics, especially their social status and mobility aspirations." She divided all Christmas cards into 3 groups: (1) reciprocals, (2) sent but not received, and (3) received but not sent. She also paired types of cards (UNICEF, photos, etc.) with types of sender. We quote: "She cannot categorize the senders of mimeographed Christmas letters, however; they appear to have nothing in common except vanity. She attributes the tone of Christmas letters ('as if they were addressed to mentally defective 13-year-olds') to the fact that they are addressed to many different people. Moreover, experienced perpetrators of Christmas letters write in the third person, so that it is difficult to tell who really wrote one... One can sometimes find out, she suggests, by analyzing such sentences as: 'While Bob worked like a demon interviewing local politicians and village chiefs, Betty spent her time learning how to cook native dishes and teaching English to some of the wives and children.'"

These simplisting maunderings are from the Thompsons of 8786 Hendricks Rd., Mentor OH 44060. Maggie wrote the first draft, Don rewrote and stenciled and Valerie drew the pictures. It is coming to you late this year in an effort to extend the holiday season.



Nubble Caliper

NEW ADDITION A calico kitten who purrs a lot (hence she is called Caliper) joined the menagerie in June. She joins Beagle Fred, German Shepherd Boot and cat Nubble. Valerie immediately decided that Caliper belonged to her and Caliper apparently agrees, suffering the little child to carry her all over the place.

Other new additions are a garden (ploughed for us by our good neighbor Al Namestnik), a freezer, a new color TV (paid for from an advance for Don's second book, due at the publisher in June 1972) and a new roof (due to damage sustained the very night after we bought the TV and costing nearly as much). We also got that toolshed put up (the one that slashed Don's foot last fall) without further injury.

VISITORS included Bill Thailing, Buck and Juanita and Bruce Coulson, Rick and Sue Brown, Hank and Lesleigh Luttrell, John and Bjo and Katwen and Lora Trimble, Alicia Austin, Greg Bear, Tony Isabella, and Tom and Sue and Michelle Collins. All of whom were licked by dogs and made welcome.



Fred Boot

VALERIE was 4 July 20. On November 5, she tied her own shoe for the first time and since then it is impossible to leave two pieces of string lying about the house without finding them tied in bows. She has seen several movies in assorted theaters: Phantom Tollbooth, Pinocchio, Lassie Come Home, Lady and the Tramp and, naturally, Wizard of Oz. She still considers Wizard of Oz to be the greatest movie ever made.



*Valerie watching Mickey Mouse while Mommy & Daddy are out of the room.*

MAGGIE'S YEAR put a burden on Blue Cross. She had synovitis (sore left knee) for the first nine months of the year; it was finally cleared up in September. In May, on the 7th, she required emergency hospitalization (ambulance and all that) and surgery because of an ectopic pregnancy. She lost about a quart of blood and the right fallopian tube. However, considering that the day started with a misdiagnosis by a doctor in the emergency room of another hospital (one we steer clear of from now on), things turned out all right.

ANNOUNCEMENT! Late in January, we began proceedings to adopt a baby through the Lake County Welfare Agency. We attended a meeting, had many discussions with Mrs. Carol Scobel (a marvelous person and a very great help) and were approved as adoptive parents. Since then, we were on the waiting list. In December, however, we had to ask to have our file put into the inactive section for a while. We will become do-it-yourself parents about July 24, 1972, by the obstetrician's estimate. Maggie is cadging maternity clothes from kindly neighbors and we are thinking up girls' names just in case -- this method has an uncertainty that adoption doesn't and all the names we had picked were for boys.

REVISED PLANS We had been hoping to take a month next mid-August to mid-September and visit the West Coast, particularly California and Oregon. Obviously, that is out, albeit for a happy reason. Our vacation plans are up in the air now, but we are thinking of trying for a late fall trip even though it would mean taking Valerie out of kindergarten for a while. But nothing is definite.

We apologize to everyone to whom we owe letters (which is to say to just about everyone getting this letter). We have cut down on a few activities to give us more time for family and friends. We certainly hope to do better and strain less in 1972.

We sincerely hope you all had Merry Christmases and will have the best new year ever.



oof, the Marvel oneshot parody comic, is being revived but has been delayed. / One of he items in Spoof, done long before DC got rights to Tarzan, is a parody of "Tarz and the Apes." / Roy Thomas will be getting editorial credit on major books which he writes regularly; Roy has long been an editor-without-credit on just about every book he writes. The change, really only a change in billing, will be made on the books out in March. In addition, he will continue as associate editor to the rest of Marvel's line. Marvel now has three assistant editors: Steve Englehart (4 days a week), Mike Friedrich (2 or 3 days a week) and Gerry Conway (free-lance). / We have been getting some disagreement on our statement that DC seems to be slipping. Etcetera revealed that DC sells 5 million comics a month. OK, that is 60 million a year. Just a couple years back, they sold 80 million a year. / Also, DC used to sell 4 or 5 times as many comics as Marvel (10 years ago, Marvel sold maybe 20 million a year) and now sells only half again as many (Marvel now sells about 40 million). We would honestly hate to see DC continue to slip -- we are devoted fans of many of their books and characters -- but there is a very real possibility that Kinney might wipe them out unless they become more dramatically profitible. Major comic publishers have disappeared before, you know -- Fawcett and Lev Gleason, for one or two examples, each had the top-selling title in the field at one time or another and where are they now? Frankly, we don't think the comics industry could survive the loss of either DC or Marvel and wish they'd stop trying to kill each other.

Luke Cage, Hero for Hire, Marvel's new one -- the first comic about a black superhero -- will be out in February with script by Archie Goodwin, pencils by George Tuska and inks by Billy Graham. Character was created by Stan, Roy and Archie; costume designed by John Romita. / Did Carmine Infantino and Joe Orlando really just go to California or did they go further in search of new artists? / Avengers 100 will include everyone who ever was an Avenger. #101 will have art by Rich Buckler and will be an adaptation of Harlan Ellison's "Five Dooms to Save Tomorrow" which we printed in Comic Art #7 after it was rejected by a comicbook editor as being too sophisticated. / Black Widow will stay with Daredevil; they will share a house (but not rooms) in San Francisco./ Ralph Reese will ink Kane's Conan. / John Buscema is a partner in a new steakhouse in Sayville, Long Island./ The Menomonee Falls Gazette (35¢ for a sample, 12 for $4.50, 26/$9, 52/$17 from Jerome Sinkovec, N85 W16505 Mary Court, Menomonee Falls, Wis 53051) is now out. This is a weekly tabloid of adventure comicstrips (6 days of each strip per issue) including Modesty Blaise, Tarzan, Secret Agent Corrigan, Air Hawk, Dateline: Danger!, Jeff Hawke, James Bond, Batman, Rip Kirby, Phantom, Flash Gordon, Mandrake, Drift Marlo, Jeff Cobb. The paper is about as good in quality as newsprint gets and reproduction is excellent. Strong fannish support (i.e., money) will enable Jerry to add more strips at no extra cost to subscribers.

The Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) has been formed to send an American fan to Australia next summer for the convention in Sydney. Candidates (3) are Robert & Juanita Coulson, Lesleigh Luttrell and Andy Porter. To vote for one of these, send at least $1 and your choice to Fred Patten, 11863 W. Jefferson Blvd, Apt. 1, Culver City, CA 90230. Anyone is eligible to vote who has been active in fandom prior to the beginning of 1971 -- if you aren't eligible to vote, feel free to send money anyway; it will cost a lot to put this over and it is a very good tradition to start.

Roy O. Disney, Walt's brother, died 20 Dec at 78. He had been running the Disney empire since Walt's death in 1966. The $170-million-a-year corporation is now in the hands of a 4-man council: Donn Tatum, E. Cardon Walker, Ronald W. Miller (husband of one of Walt's daughters) and Roy E. Disney (son of Roy O.). / We neglected to mention earlier that Bill Mauldin's wife, Natalie, was killed in an auto accident Aug 31.

Donald Duck is being attacked as capitalist propaganda in Sweden and in Chile. Their main objection is to Uncle Scrooge, who "exploits everyone." / A reasonably informed AP article on underground comix is appearing in newspapers around the country. / The Rutland Parade on Halloween was one of the biggest ever, with 44 comic book characters, lots of publicity, 2000 free Marvel comics and DC coverage to appear in the company's house organ. "Night of the Reaper" was re-enacted at midnight (with many members of the original cast). / The Nostalgia Press EC book is out as is the Thimble Theatre (Popeye) book, but we haven't seen either one. The Superman book we have seen and it is lousy. Look it over before you pay out good money for it. Stories apparently were picked for easy accessibility only.

FOR SALE: (The following are being sold by us for a friend, so the prices are somewhat higher than we would ask ourselves; even so, we knocked 25% off those in the Overstreet Price Guide because those prices are absurd) Mad 13 (good condition) $3 Weird Fantasy #18 (good condition) $7.50. Send payment to us, please. Enclosed stamped envelope...

Billy Graham, managing editor of Creepy, Eerie and Vampirella, left that job Dec 31 to devote full time to painting and illustration. A replacement is to be named in February. Graham will be inking Marvel's new Hero for Hire book. / Raymond True, 1930 W. Warwick Lane, Roselle IL 60172, is looking to buy Classics Illustrated and is forming a club of CI collectors. / John Ryan (PO Box 24, Yeronga, Queensland 4104 Australia) needs photos (small, black&white) of pre-1942 comics, especially All-Star 1-4, Circus. / Greg Myers wants to point out that DC will be having some anniversaries in 1972: JLA #100, Superman 250, House of Secrets 100, House of Mystery 200, Jimmy Olsen 150, Lois Lane 125 and Detective 425. This was in response to an item about upcoming anniversaries of Thor, Avengers, Captain America and Sub-Mariner. Glad to give equal space, but the point of our item was that all these Marvels have anniversaries in the same month, not just the same year. / Bill Ingram (Box 232 Main PO, Dayton OH 45401) needs Bugaloos #1 and #16 and 24 of the Story of Life magazines. Bill designed a bookcase which we have not been able to include in NF; we hope to print a diagram in COMIC ART. A lot of news and other stuff just isn't going to get in (this is the last stencil to be typed) and we are sorry. Some will get personal comment, some news will be shipped to other news magazines, some fillers and art will be used in other Thompson publications. Let us drop out of our grouchy character long enough to thank all of you who sent news and all who just supported us with money. Keep in touch, friends. Just because we drop NF is no reason for you to drop us. We may even be able to answer your letters...

Gaslite (58¢ in check or money order only to Peter Kuper, 2658 Kemper Rd, Cleveland OH 44120) is a promising clubzine highlited (sorry) by interviews with Crumb and Sinnott and marred by an article whose basic premise is wrong. Bruce Burke, unaware that Roy Thomas has been his own editor for years, says Thomas can't function as an editor unless Stan Lee supervises him. / Fans in Atlanta can contact George Orentlicher, 1782 Homestead Ave., Atlanta GA 30306 who is starting a club. / Toledo area fans: Joe Jenkins, 701 Bartley Pl., Toledo, OH 43609. / In Chicago contact Joe Sarno, 4717 N. Harding Ave., Chicago IL 60625. / Harvey Sobel did an article on comics for the Albany student paper which resulted in creating enough comics interest to get comics carried in the school bookstore. / In the first reel of the 1933 movie Footlight Parade, one character rants to another: "What do you think I am, Kent, a superman...?" Jerry De Fuccio offers this as mighty prophetic.../ Milt Caniff was awarded the first annual Segar Award (established in memory of Elzie Segar, creator of Popeye). Was this given by Bill Blackbeard? / The artist who drew the first comic strip (and it was not the Yellow Kid) was Jimmy Swinnerton, who celebrated his 96th birthday 14 Nov. / Words to remember: "Finding the guilty member of triplets has always been a formidable task." - Dick Tracy, 5 Sep 71. / The Freak Brothers were kicked out of Toronto's underground paper Guerilla on grounds that the strip is sexist. / You can get bedsheets with vintage Chicago Tribune comics colorfully printed on them (Terry, Gasoline Alley, LOAnnie etc) in many department stores. / Sheldon Moldoff, head of Animation International, is nearly ready to release "Marco Polo Returns," a full-length animated cartoon feature, and is at work on "Wilbur Webster & the Spirits of '76."



The Jan 2 NY Sunday News magazine has an illustrated article on Stephen Lemberg, who has acquired outside rights to Marvel's characters and who is opening his venture with the Jan 5 Carnegie Hall concert. He has a lot of plans, including a book on comics to be the size of the Last Whole Earth Catalog. / Junior Woodchucks has been made bi-monthly and Carl Barks is being asked to write long stories for each issue. / Ken Ernst (Mary Worth artist) did not stay long in Ireland although he had planned to move there permanently. He is now living in Eugene, Oregon. / King Features is suing Facts Research Inc, publisher of Little Dirty Books, a compilation of 8-page pornographic comics, some of which use King characters without permission. The little books were originally published in the 30's and 40's and, in our opinion, the collections are of valid historical and sociological importance; at this late date, it is hard to imagine that King has much of a case, but... / Richard O'Brien has sold a mystery story, "Neatness Counts," to Mike Shayne's Mystery Magazine about a comic book collector murdered for his copy of Whiz #1 (in the story, it is called Thunder Comics #1). / Dennis O'Neil's latest non-comics story is in the Feb 72 Fantasy & Science Fiction, now on sale. / Tony Isabella will list comics circulations in Comic Fandom Monthly (a constantly-improving fanzine from Joe Brancatelli, 2016 E. 23 St, Brooklyn NY 11229, 50¢ a copy). We never managed to find the space for circulation figures this year, but will send our figures to Tony. / The US Postal Service is planning another increase in mail rates July 1, maybe raising first class postage to 10 or 11 cents. If we were paranoid, we would consider this a Governmental move in its continuing war against communication. / A. Paskow, 1662 Cropsey Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11214 is looking for original art by Thos. Nast, Rose O'Neill, A B Frost, Winsor McCay and of Yellow Kid. And if you are looking for original art from comicstrips, he is the best source we know.

Etcetera will have Marvel news on upcoming contents. / Bat Lash is to appear in new stories in All-Star Western, which may be one of the first all-original DC 48-pagers. / DC will be doing some title killing and changing in about a month (sales figures finally in on the 25¢ books). One thing is certain: Batman is in for a major change. One thing is not certain: just what the change will be. / Superman will include a Superman story which previously appeared only as a promotional item (cereal premium?). / Tony De Zuniga did 2 Supergirl stories inked by Oksner while Oksner was recuperating from eye problems. / Least surprising rumor of the year is that Kirby's new book will be a hero book. It may not be part of the Apokolips bit, though. (Speaking of which, except for the mystery of why that atrocious cover was used, we found nothing puzzling -- or impressive -- about New Gods 7. Another 5 minutes spent on plotting could have added a lot and maybe made something of characters like Darkseid's mother and his wife who wander in and are kissed off with total lack of drama -- we may be in for a blight of "untold stories" later on, God forbid.) / When Kirby leaves Jimmy Olsen, it will be edited by Joe Orlando, written by John Albano and drawn by Jose Delbo and Bob Oksner. The first post-Kirby story will introduce a black cop adopted by Jim Corrigan of Earth 1 who is out to avenge his father's death -- it is uncertain whether this will mean an Earth 1 Spectre as resulted from the death of Earth 2's Jim Corrigan. The book also will have a 15-page story with the new Guardian. / Dan Spiegle has done at least one "Haunted Tank" story for DC. / Batgirl is to reveal her identity to her father (who already knows) and run for Congress...

Detective will emphasize detectives. / We picked up an error the wire services made and said that the late William Costello was the voice of Popeye for 28 years. Costello did Popeye's voice for only the first 2 years of cartoon production and was replaced by Jack Mercer, who has done it ever since. / Steve Ditko may do a 6-part examination of heroism for DC in addition to a story mentioned in Etcetera. / Gardner Fox will be writing the new Red Wolf book for Marvel after the first issue by Gary Friedrich. / Frank Frazetta has done a Dracula dustjacket for a new edition of Dracula/Frankenstein being offered by the Science Fiction Book Club. / DC seems to be taking a lot of pride in the fact that they have resurrected the old comicstrip logo for Tarzan, so maybe it is important that we mention it. / John Buscema will only do one Ka-Zar story. / We understand that Doc Wertham's Seduction of the Innocent is to be reprinted by Kennikat at $12.50 -- which is ridiculous. It just ain't worth it. / Bill Spicer is among the founders of the Los Angeles Comic Book Company which will publish some underground comix soon. One of their books is to be Tales Calculated to Drive you Underground by Wally Wood. / A new series of Spanish comic books has the country in a furor. Seems it makes Don Quixote out to be an angry-eyed warrior, Sancho Panza a revolutionary and Rosinante into a fire-breathing charge



# NEWF (oundland?) ANGLES

## REVIEWS

by Michael

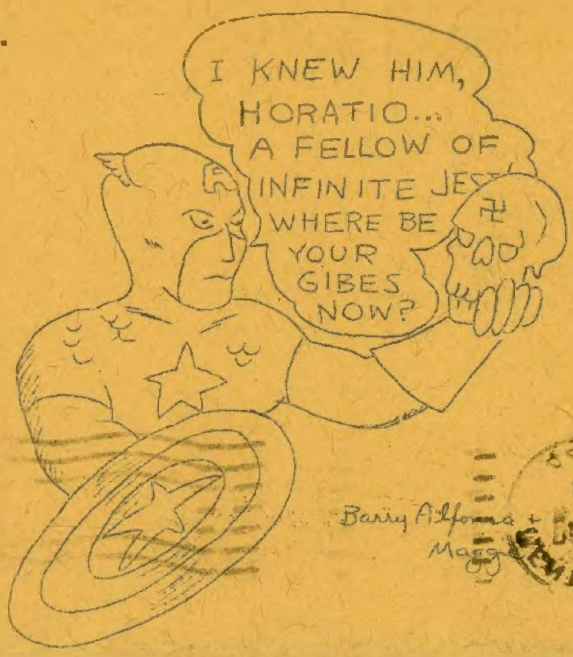
Tarzan #1 from DC (on sale Feb 29) will feature a 26-page Tarzan origin story adapted by editor/artist Joe Kubert. It certainly ranks among the best of all the Tarzan art we have seen and is vastly superior to the Paul Norris art Gold Key has been inflicting upon us of late. The origin is told in flashback so the story can open with action. We have not seen the John Carter feature which is to make up the rest of the book (Hal Foster Tarzan reprints will be used occasionally in the book) but can't believe that Murphy Anderson or even Gray Morrow -- Anderson does the first and third stories, Morrow the second -- can approach the level reached by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane on "Warrior of Mars" in Creatures on the Loose #16. We remain convinced that this Edwin Arnold novel (Lt. Gulliver Jones: His Vacation) was the source for Burroughs' John Carter. // In Monsters on the Prowl 16, King Kull will return by Thomas, Marie Severin & John Severin. It is an excellent job -- and Kull is back to stay, though not in Monsters on the Prowl. // We were going to go on in some detail about how incredibly bad such items as Flash 212, (Flash in cartoonland), Forever People 7 (in which the plot advances 1/16 of an inch in a tale full of sound and fury signifying nothing), Justice League 96 (nearly identical to at least 90 previous issues; collectors may want it for the Bernie Krigstein "Wildcat" story), Amazing Adventures 11 (an idiotic origin for an animalized Beast, sound and fury again), Brave & Bold 100 (idiot plot with Batman too damn stupid to lie still with a bullet touching his heart and everyone else so invincibly ignorant that they didn't sedate him; Haney's presentation of Black Canary as so selfcenteredly stupid as to abandon her post to dry her hair -- Haney isn't even aware that she is a brunette wearing a blonde wig -- is insulting to all women and to any man who is not so insecure as to be a basket case) were, but decided they don't deserve valuable space. We'd rather mention items with merit, such as Marvel Team-Up 1 which managed a rather good offbeat Christmas story and, we hope, offered final convincing proof to everyone that Mike Esposito should not be allowed to ink Ross Andru; art fans may dig House of Secrets 96 for its Wrightson, Wood, Toth and George Evans art -- but don't read the stories, except maybe Len Wein's "Be It Ever So Humble"; Conan the Barbarian 14 brings Elric of Melnibone to comics and does an excellent job of it -- Part 2 will be the last issue by Barry Smith and the last bimonthly issue; Gil Kane takes over with #16 and Conan returns to monthly publication (You wouldn't believe how many people have told us how often Carmine Infantino has said that this book would never make it); GI Combat 152 is very much worth your 25¢ not only for a very fine EC-type "The Flying Tigers" by Jerry De Fuccio and John Severin -- a tight, ironic story enveloped in careful and thorough research by both writer and artist -- but also for a surprisingly effective Hop Harrigan reprint, "The Psalm of the K Ration"; Werewolf by Night still isn't our cup of tea but the art is interesting; the writing seems disorganized as though Conway is not taking time to plot, something you can get away with in an established book but not in a new one; Green Lantern 88 (apparently the last issue) is all-reprint (save for a never-before-published "Golden Age" Green Lantern which is not much better than most of the "EXCLUSIVE!" "Golden Age" stories DC has been printing (the "EXCLUSIVE!" really gets us -- who else is going to print them?)). The pencil cover for the story which would have been in this issue if Neal Adams had made the deadline -- and his missing this deadline cannot be blamed on the theft of his briefcase; he missed a lot of deadlines before that -- indicates that GL/GA would have ended with a bang instead of this whimper, or might not have ended just yet at all, if Adams had come through. We understand the story still isn't finished but that it might see print as a back-up feature, possibly in Flash. // Our Army at War 241 includes a 4-page

story by Bob Haney and Alex Toth which is very well done; the ending is predictable from the first page but that does not hurt the story which is more than a simple "snapper." // All-Star Western 10 introduced Jonah Hex, who looks far less ugly than everyone seems to think or than the ads indicated (Code's heavy hand?). We have doubts about how strong a continuing character an ugly gunfighter is but will stick with All-Star (which may or may not be retitled Weird Western -- there is some resistance from editors, writers and artist for the promised new Bat Lash stories.

BOOKS: Comics and Their Creators by Martin Sheridan has been reprinted in a quality pb edition by Luna Press, Box 1049, Brooklyn NY 11202 for $4. We have had the book on our wantlist for several years. It is an excellent survey with biographies and samples of the comicstrip field as of the late 30's (revised slightly for a 1944 edition; revisions mostly consist of saying that the artist Sheridan has been talking of in present tense is now dead and switching a picture of Fred Lasswell for one of Billy De Beck). A bargain.// Another bargain is All in Color for a Dime edited by Dick Lupoff and (ahem) Don Thompson, still available for $11.95 in hardcover but now complete in an Ace paperback for $1.50. Unfortunately, due to confusion between writer and publisher, Don Thompson's article in the book preserves 2 bad mistakes from the hardcover -- indicating that Stan Lee is not the sole creator of Spider-Man and saying that the Sub-Mariner origin story was reprinted in Fantasy Masterpieces. Don is still trying to get the mistake corrected for any future editions. // Mad's Dave Berg Looks at Our Sick World (Signet 75¢) is for Dave Berg fans, or Mad completists. // Playboy's Little Annie Fanny by Harvey Kurtzman & Bill Elder (with help on some writing by Larry Siegel and on art by Jack Davis, Russ Heath, Arnold Roth, Paul Coker Jr, Al Jaffee, Frank Frazetta and Bob Price) is available in a new collection from Playboy Press, paperbound at $2.50. A fantastic bargain, 34 stories, including the comics-oriented one where Fanny dresses as Wondrous Woman.

UNDERGROUND COMIX: Dan O'Neill's Comics and Stories 2 and 3 continue his Odd Bodkins adventures which we find hilarious and many "true undergrounders" find totally lacking in merit; if you like O'Neill, here he is. / Moondog 2 by George Metzger includes a very fine Moondog, a fine KaleidaSmith reprint and other Metzgerian goodies. / Mr Natural 2 is Bob Crumb at or near the top of his form most of the way. / For Richard Corben at the top of his form, get Rowlf, originally a 2-parter in Voice of Comicdom, and Tales of the Plague, originally a 2-parter in Weirdom, and Fantagor 1 (originally a fanzine now reincarnated as an underground comic). Some fine Corben can also be found in Weirdom Comix 14, once a fanzine called Weirdom Illustrated. / Fanzines have long been a cousin of underground comix. Our friend Joe Pilati, nearly a decade ago, was part of shortlived satire fandom and published the earliest work of Jay Lynch, Skip Williamson and Don Dohler. Dohler then created a shadow-eyed teen called ProJunior who has since been rendered by dozens of different cartoonists. Denis Kitchen's Krupp Comics has printed a collection, ProJunior 1, with work by 22 underground artists ranging all the way from good to godawful. Highly recommended, especially as a sampler of underground artists. / Greaser 1 is grisly and vicious and filled with wanton cruelty -- as such, it is a very good picture of the 50's, which is what it sets out to be. G DiCaprio & R Jaccoma have succeeded in capturing much of the essence of the worst decade of the century to date; it is definitely not pleasant, but Greaser is one of the more successful undergrounders. / Spain's Mean Bitch Thrills is not a success, but if you thought Savage Tales' Femizons were far too tame, this variant on it may appeal to you. / Cloud Comix 1 is from Denis Kitchen's publishing empire and I must say, considering the way Denis disagrees with our liking for some illdrawn undergrounc comics, it's a bit baffling. There are a lot of funny bits in the work of Peter Bramley and Bill Skurski but the work of Gail Burwen and Denny Hermanson doesn't appeal to me (I switched from editorial "we" because this is Don speaking; Maggie seemed to like this a lot more than I did). / Armadillo 2 is more cartoons about armadillos; well enough done if you feel a real need for cartoons (mostly obscure) about armadillos. / Junk is junk and Uncle Sham 2 is garbage./ We got our undergrounds from Bud Plant at the address for Promethean --below-- just send a sae for his catalog or ask him to include it with the nearly underground All Kines Comics ($1 from Promethean Enterprises, 4160 Holly Dr. San Jose, CA 95127) It contains a variety of excellences, topped by Vincent Davis' "Comic Book Fans" (yes, Vince, we do) which is worth the price of admission by itself. We got a free review copy with a couple of very badly printed pages and will be sending real cash for a replacement -- that is a real endorsement.

A couple of issues ago, we went on at some length about how uptight and corporate DC is and how freelance writers are treated less than royally. Well, a writer we know tells quite a different story: He was welcomed at DC and treated very handsomely indeed with a very warm and human atmosphere and absolutely no corporate uptightness. Either our information was totally wrong or this only applies to lesser freelance writers. Our writer friend is very good and will be appearing very frequently in DC's books. On his expert testimony, we retract our earlier story about DC. / Last issue, Harvey Sobel asked if DC added "brown skins...and yellow skins" to a description of humans as having pink skins. The story was reprinted in From Beyond the Unknown 14 with what looked to Harvey like new lettering. The story originally appeared in Strange Adventures 108 in 1959. Mike Harre checked for us and the dialogue indeed was changed to add brown and yellow skins. Next time someone at DC denies that they discovered civil rights late, mention this. / A new science fiction movie called "Glen and Randa" involves some after-bomb searching for the wondrous city of Metropolis, which the title characters learned of from a Wonder Woman comic book -- or at least so says Baird Searles in the Jan 72 Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction. / Don Thompson is one of the few persons whose mother-in-law rates a mention in Eerie. (If I don't explain that I get killed: Betsy Curtis is mentioned in the lettercolumn of Eerie 38; Betsy is Maggie's mother.) / The Satanists are using some Marvel characters in their literature; frankly we aren't sure if they are serious or not, but we doubt that they are. / Current DC comics contain subscription coupons; would a subscriber let us know if copies are mailed flat or folded; if flat, we will definitely subscribe to a few. / This year, the British comic strip Gun Law (a fine version of the US TV show Gunsmoke) finally wrote Chester out and Festus in. / Abbott & Costello 16 (Aug 70) had a 5-pager by Grass Green: "Comics Convention." We missed it & would like a copy. / Dr Fredric Wertham is said by Locus to have finished his book on fanzines; he is looking for a publisher. / Gary Brown was the first to point out that Dr Curt Connors in Spider-Man 6 said "My darling! If not for Spider-Man, I might never have held you in my arms again!" / We hear that DC is using recycled paper on an experimental basis and saving $3000 an issue; if true, this is good news both for the company's economy and the country's ecology. / Graphic Story World and Graphic Story Magazine are sold on newsstands in Los Angeles. / John Severin will ink Ross Andru's Doc Savage pencils for Marvel. Roy Thomas is adapting Man of Bronze for the first 2 issues. Strip will be present day but with a 1930-ish feel. 'Bye.




Everybody's subscription ends with this issue.

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